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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the section beginning at page 8, line 14 and extending to page 9, line 24, with the following rewritten section:

Brief Description Of The Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram ~~of an~~ showing a switching unit ~~into~~ to which can be applied a data management apparatus ~~an embodiment of the invention~~.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram ~~of~~ showing an embodiment of a data management apparatus (data management module) included in ~~an embodiment~~ the switching unit as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram ~~of~~ showing functions of a data management module ~~in an embodiment~~ as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4A is an explanatory diagram ~~of~~ showing a lending pointer table in the data management apparatus as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4B is an explanatory diagram showing a data field (MM) in the data management apparatus as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an explanatory diagram ~~of~~ showing the data setting area management table in the data management apparatus as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 6A is an explanatory diagram ~~of~~ showing a usage example of the data setting area management table ~~and~~.

Fig. 6B shows contents of the data field corresponding to a usage state of the data setting area management table as shown in Fig. 6A.

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Fig. 7 is an explanatory diagram ~~of the~~ showing a pointer lending process executed by the data access controller as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 8 is an explanatory diagram ~~of~~ showing ~~the~~ a data direct rending process ~~by~~ through a usage of ~~using~~ a pointer executed by the direct read access controller as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 is an explanatory diagram ~~of~~ showing ~~the~~ an example of a releasing process executed by the data delete access controller as shown in Fig. 2 when deleting data from the data field.

Fig. 10A is an explanatory diagram ~~of the releasing process~~ showing an example of contents of the data field when starting the release process.

Fig. 10B is an explanatory diagram showing contents of the data setting area management table corresponding to the contents of the data field as shown in Fig. 10A.

Fig. 10C is an explanatory diagram showing a table showing contents of the data setting area management table changed from the contents as shown in Fig. 10B through execution of the releasing process about cases 1-6.

Fig. 11 is an explanatory diagram ~~of the~~ showing an example of a data allocating process executed by the data add access controller as shown in Fig. 2 when adding data to the data field.

Fig. 12 is an explanatory diagram ~~of the~~ showing another example of the data allocating process.

Fig. 13A is an explanatory diagram ~~of the~~ showing an example of contents of the data field when starting the data allocating process.

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Fig. 13B is an explanatory diagram showing contents of the data setting area management table corresponding to the contents of the data field as shown in Fig. 13A.

Fig. 13C is an explanatory diagram showing a table showing contents of the data setting area management table changed from the contents as shown in Fig. 13B through execution of the allocating process about cases 1-4.

Fig. 14 is an explanatory diagram of the showing an example of a data relocating process executed by the data setting area relocation controller as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 15 is an explanatory diagram of the showing an example of the data relocating process.

Fig. 16 is an explanatory diagram ofshowing an example of updating of the lending pointer table executed by the pointer notice access controller in response to the data relocating process.

Fig. 17 is an explanatory diagram of the showing an example of a pointer invalidity notice process executed by the data access controller as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 18 is an explanatory diagram of a prior art showing data read/write processes from/to a main memory and a hard disk in a switching unit.

Fig. 19 is an explanatory diagram of a prior art showing the data read process from a data field.

Fig. 20 is an explanatory diagram of a prior art showing a data read process of a data management module according to a read request from an application program.

Fig. 21 is an explanatory diagram of a prior art showing a data read process (direct data reading) of an application program using a pointer posted from a data management module.

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Fig. 22 is an explanatory diagram <u>of</u> a prior art <u>showing functions of a data</u>
<u>management module</u>.

Please replace the section beginning at page 10, line 9, with the following
rewritten paragraph:

The input side line handler 2 accommodates a plurality of communication lines, and
executes data reception process, data format conversion process, and others. The switch 3
sends out the data entered from the input side line handler [[3]] 2, toward an output port
corresponding to the data. The output side line handler 4 converts the data format, and
sends out the data converted in format from a corresponding output port.

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